

JANUARY 13, 1807.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Thursday next.

A Bill,

For incorporating the Protestant Episcopal church of the town of Alexandria, in the district of Columbia.



1 Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That the
3 minister and vestry of the Protestant Episcopal church of the town
4 of Alexandria in the district of Columbia, that now be, and their
5 successors, are hereby declared and made a body corporate and po-
6 litic, by the name, style and title of The minister and vestry of the
7 Protestant Episcopal church, of the town of Alexandria, and by the
8 name, style and title aforesaid, they and their successors shall for
9 ever lawfully have, hold, use and enjoy all and every tract and
10 tracts of land already belonging to the said church, which is now,
11 or which my hereafter be acquired by donation, or purchase, the
12 church already built, with the burying ground belonging to the

13 same, with their hereditaments and appurtenances, and all books
14 and other property heretofore and that may hereafter be appropri-
15 ated to the use of the said church, to the sole and proper use and
16 benefit of the said church, agreeable to the true intent and meaning
17 for which any of the said property was, or may be purchased or giv-
18 en, and by the name, style and title aforesaid, they shall be capable
19 in law to hold, maintain and recover all their estates, rights and pro-
20 perty belonging thereto, and to sue and be sued, plead and be
21 impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, in all
22 suits, controversies, causes, actions, matters and things, whether
23 they be actions of debt, assumpsit, ejectment, trespass, or bill in
24 chancery in any court or courts of law or equity, and before any
25 judge or justices whatsoever, and shall have one common seal and
26 perpetual succession, and the service of process upon the church-
27 wardens shall be a sufficient service upon the body corporate.

1 Sec. 2. *Provided always, and be it further enacted,* That in all
2 proceedings of the aforesaid minister and vestry, all matters shall
3 be decided by a majority of the votes, and the said minister
4 shall, in no case, have a negative on the proceedings of the said
5 corporation, except when his vote shall be with or make a majority
6 of the votes present at any meeting of the said corporation.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the said minister and
2 vestry by the name and style aforesaid, shall have good right, full
3 power and lawful authority to have, take, receive, acquire, purchase,
4 hold, use and enjoy all lands, tenements and hereditaments, and all
5 goods and chattels, and to demise, alien, improve and lease not only

6 the lands which they now have, but which they may hereafter ac-
 7 quire, and to use and improve such goods and chattels to the use
 8 and benefit of the said church, so that the annual increase thereof
 9 shall not exceed six thousand dollars, any law, usage or custom to
 10 the contrary notwithstanding : and it shall and may be lawful for the
 11 said minister and vestry of the said church, to sell any of the said
 12 property, real or personal, which at this time belongs to the said
 13 church, or which may hereafter belong to it, for the purpose of
 14 applying the proceeds thereof to the purpose of erecting a new
 15 church or repairing the present church, for the use of the said con-
 16 gregation, or building or repairing dwelling or other houses for the
 17 use of their minister, or school houses within the said town of Al-
 18 exandria, or in any other way or manner, as they shall, from time
 19 to time, think necessary for the benefit of the said church.

1 *Sec. 4. And be it further enacted,* That the minister, or in case
 2 of his absence, or of a vacancy, the church-wardens shall call a
 3 meeting of the incorporate body as often as it shall be deemed neces-
 4 sary, and seven of the said body shall be a sufficient number to
 5 constitute a meeting for the dispatch of business, and shall have
 6 power (except for the election of a minister, or of demising, alienat-
 7 ing, or leasing of land, in which cases a concurrence of a majority
 8 of the whole number elected shall be necessary) to make such rules
 9 and orders for the managing all the temporal affairs and concerns
 10 of the said church, as they, or a majority of them so met, shall agree
 11 upon and shall think most conducive to the interest and prosperity
 12 of the said church, and shall have the disposition and ordering of

13 all payments of the monies belonging to the said church, and also
 14 of the appointment of a clerk, treasurer, collector and sexton, when-
 15 ever they judge it necessary, and the said clerk, treasurer, collector
 16 and sexton at their pleasure to remove and appoint others in their
 17 stead, all which orders, rules and appointments, together with the
 18 accounts of the said church, the said vestry shall cause to be fairly
 19 entered and preserved in well bound books to be provided for that
 20 purpose, and shall deliver the said books, with the papers and do-
 21 cuments belonging to the said church, over to their successors in
 22 office.

1 Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever a minister and
 2 vestry men are wanting to form a body corporate and politic, agreea-
 3 ble to the directions of this act, it shall be lawful for any two reputa-
 4 ble members of the church to call together at the said church, by
 5 notice duly published in one of the news-papers published in the
 6 town of Alexandria, the members of the said church, and there
 7 elect by a majority of votes, twelve able and discreet men, members
 8 of the said church, who shall be a vestry, to all intents and pur-
 9 poses, and who with their minister, or during a vacancy without a
 10 minister, shall be a body corporate and politic, by the same name,
 11 and shall enjoy all the rights, powers, privileges, and immunities
 12 which are given by this act to the said church.

1 Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That at all elections of a vestry
 2 for the said church, no person shall be allowed to vote who is not
 3 a member of, and who has not actually contributed to the support
 4 of the said church, for twelve months next preceding the said elec-

tion. There shall be elections of vestry men every third year for ever; the next election to be held on easter Monday next, and all succeeding elections on the same day in every third year thereafter, which elections shall be held and conducted in the following manner. The members of the said church, shall assemble at the said church, or if there should be no church house, at such other place as the vestry, for the time being, shall appoint by due notice, on easter Monday in every third year, and then and there elect twelve able and discreet men, members of the said church, as vestry men, who shall continue in office for three years, and until their successors shall be elected in the manner aforesaid, two of the vestry men so chosen shall, annually, by a majority of the vestry, be appointed church-wardens, who, or either of them and their successors, shall preside at all elections of a vestry, shall take care that such elections are conducted in a fair and orderly manner, and shall be judges of the qualifications of the electors.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever a vacancy or vacancies in the vestry shall happen, either by death, resignation, quitting the church or removal, the remaining vestry men or a quorum of them, shall choose such person or persons, as they may think fit and proper, to supply the office of such vestry man or vestry men, who, on complying with the rules and forms of the said church, shall continue in office until the next general election, except he or they remove, resign, or quit the church as aforesaid.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the said vestry to make such provision for the support of the poor of the said church, as shall by them be thought proper,

4. and to provide also in such manner as to them shall appear proper
 5 for the education of the poor children of the said church.

1 Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the vestry of the said
 2 church, two thirds concurring, shall have full power and authority
 3 to remove from the said church any minister guilty of unworthy be-
 4 havior, or of neglecting the duties of his office, and upon such re-
 5 moval, the said vestry shall have authority to elect a successor.

1 Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be law-
 2 ful for the said minister and vestry to make such rules and regula-
 3 tions for the good management of the temporal affairs of the said
 4 church, as may be deemed by them most expedient, and for the
 5 government of the said vestry, and the same to abrogate or alter as
 6 often as they shall see fit: *Provided always*, That such rules and
 7 regulations are not inconsistent with, and against any provision of
 8 this act, the laws of congress, and the constitution of the United
 9 States.

1 Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall commence
 2 and be in force, from and after the passing thereof.